FORTIFY

Measuring Software Security Assurance Initiatives

Brian Chess / March 10, 2010

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Lessons from the cryptographers
- Enemy has unknown capabilities
- Small mistakes can have big consequences

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Security is hard to measure

Standards
trump
Risk Management

Standards trump Risk Management

1. People are bad at risk

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1. People are bad at risk
2. That's not always a bad thing
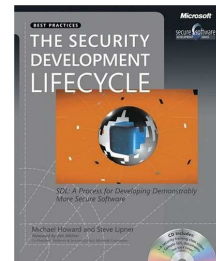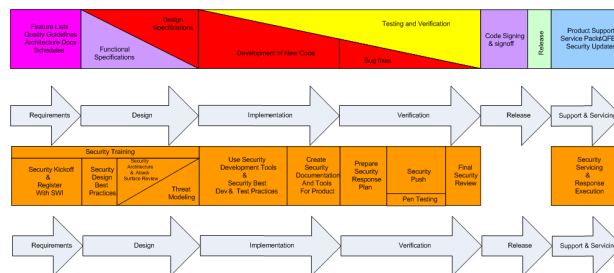

Transportation
Security
Administration

Standards
trump
Risk Management

Security in the Development Lifecycle
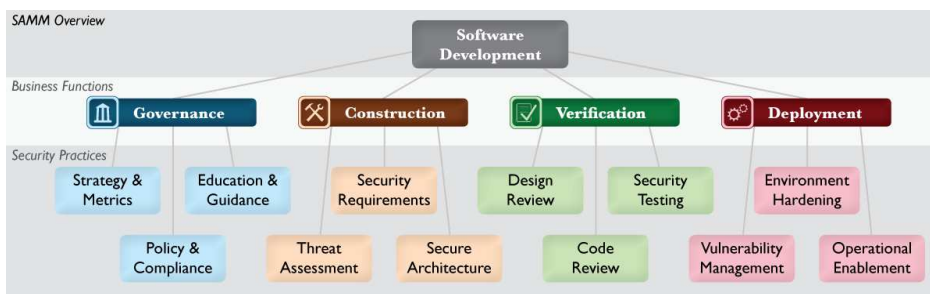

Initiative > Lifecycle

Creating a software security initiative

- Software Assurance Maturity Model (SAMM)
- Cookbook for security initiatives
- Community-oriented (OWASP)
- http://www.opensamm.org

- Building Security In Maturity Model (BSIMM)
- Real data from real initiatives
- McGraw, Chess, & Migues
- http://bsi-mm.com

SAMM Overview

One framework for describing all software security assurance initiatives.

Data
are good

The data say

- 67% of surveyed companies use static analysis
  - 88% in USA

The data say

- 60% of surveyed companies do fuzz testing
  - 100% in USA

The data say

- Software security assurance team is %1 the size of the development team
  - Same in US and Europe

The data say

- Training hollow

The data say

- Banks do compliance better than ISVs

The data say

- Little flow between verification tools

The data say

- Resources split between governance, construction, verification, and response

FORTIFY

Approaches to software security assurance

Builders

"You must build security in"

FORTIFY

Approaches to software security assurance

Fatalists

"Software is always vulnerable."

Conclusion

- Invest in standards

- Measure process

- Blend construction and reaction